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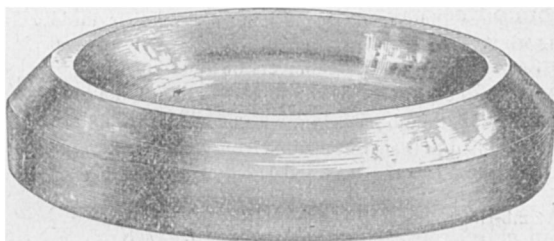
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when very little fluid is used it gathers into the center. The dishes, owing to their vertical sides, are readily stacked, while



the bevel is wide enough for a label, which can be easily seen both when the dishes are stacked and as they set upon the table singly. They are sold at \$2.50 per dozen.—*Charles S. Minot.*

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.¹

— The new museum building of Columbia College, New York, devotes its first floor to chemistry, the second to mineralogy and metallurgy, the third to archæology and geological conference, the fourth to engineering and museums, the fifth to geology and palæontology. The building runs from 49th to 50th street, forty feet wide, with lecture-rooms adjoining each museum. The library has been arranged and catalogued, and is lighted by electricity. The astronomical observatory over the library, in charge of Professor J. K. Rees, has been equipped with telegraphic apparatus and a thirteen-inch equatorial telescope, costing \$20,000, given by Louis M. Rutherford, which is used for lunar researches. The herbarium has extensive rooms, and is one of the largest and most valuable in the country. The geological museum, under Dr. J. S. Newberry, has been rearranged and provided with new cases, and is now displayed at the best advantage. The table cases are ten by four feet in size, and completely filled with mineral ores and products, making the most varied collection of the kind extant. Fifteen wall cases are filled with minerals and building stones. The palæontological collection is arranged in twelve table and sixteen wall cases to the best advantage for instruction. Here also cases containing numerous specimens of rocks and the minerals which make rock, as auxiliary to the study of lithology. There is a large collection of animals illustrative of the different groups bearing on the study of palæontology. Among the recent additions are specimens of fossil Saurians from the Jurassic rocks of Würtemberg, representing the Ichthyosaurians and Teleosaurians; a fine specimen of the cave-bear, etc.

¹ Edited by WM. HOSEA BALLOU, 265 Broadway, New York.

— There is some hope of having a Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy created in the Department of Agriculture. Professor Riley and Dr. Merriam recently appeared before the Senate sub-committee on appropriations having in charge the agricultural appropriation bill, and urged an amendment to the House bill creating such a division and appropriating \$15,000 therefor. Our readers are aware that ornithological work was begun last year under the Division of Entomology. It was added to Riley's others duties against his wish, and he deserves the thanks of ornithologists for carrying out the wishes of the Ornithological Union in appointments made under him. He realizes that there is much in economic ornithology which has no bearing on entomology, and if the new division is created, Professor Riley and Dr. Merriam have arranged that the former will take charge of that part of the work bearing on the food-habits of birds in relation to insects.

— The seeming anomaly is presented, by the excessive demand for furs, of the extermination of large species and the increase of smaller ones. This is obviously due to the fact that large animals require great space to roam over, while the smaller ones need but little territory, and propagate with rapidity, follow immigration and increase with the population in farm districts. Further, the increase of population diminishes the territory of large species, making them more accessible and increases the domain and support of the smaller animals. The annual extermination of the beaver is about 200,000 animals, of the muskrat about 2,150,000, and yet there is no perceptible diminution in their numbers. The grizzly and polar bears and Shetland seal are nearly exterminated. Of the last named only 200 skins were secured last year, and the price of cloaks made from them advanced to \$1200.

— The American causeway, or basaltic columns, at Orange, New Jersey, is the largest yet exposed. The columns are compressed into a mass 750 feet long and 100 feet high, covering fourteen acres. The generality stand vertically, but some lie in a horizontal plane and others radiate from a common center. Interiorly they are a dark-blue color, covered with an incrustation of dust particles. They range in shape from prisms to octagons, the pentagons predominating. Underneath is an enormous deposit of red sandstone. The columns are being quarried for building blocks and micodons.

— Candidates for apprenticeships in the United States Navy must come within the following measurements:

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Height.</i>	<i>Chest.</i>
14 to 15	70 lbs.	57 inches.	26 inches.
15 " 16	80 "	59 "	27 "
16 " 17	90 "	61 "	28 "
17 " 18	100 "	62 "	29 "

— Thos. Edwards, the Banff naturalist, so well known from Smiles' biography, is dead. Since the publication of Smiles' work he has enjoyed a pension of £50 per annum, and latterly he has been curator of Banff Museum.

— A dromedary in Central park, N. Y., gave birth, on May 17, to a calf weighing 105 pounds. This is said to be the third birth of the kind in the United States.

— The morning glory, natural grasses and other species of land life rapidly take the place of aquatic plants in the vast areas of drained lands in sub-tropical Florida.

— The Chicago Academy of Sciences has deposited its collection in commodious quarters at the Exposition building on the lake front.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, May 15.—Communication: Dr. C. Hart Merriam, habits of the short-tailed shrew (*Blarina*).

May 29.—Communications: Mr. John B. Smith, Ant's nests and their inhabitants; Dr. T. H. Bean, The trout of North America, with exhibition of specimens; Mr. L. O. Howard, On some new Chalcididæ; Mr. L. F. Ward, Exhibition of a specimen of the Palo la Cruz or Wood of the Cross.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, May 10.—A history of the society from its beginning to the present time, prepared by the secretary, was presented. It comprised the following sections: Origin; membership; biographical sketches of prominent members; changes of location; the old Lyceum building; collections; library; publications; change of name, etc., etc. Some of the old documents, books, etc., were exhibited.

May 17.—The following paper was presented: Ten years' progress in astronomy, Professor C. A. Young, of Princeton College.

May 24.—The subject of the sanitary influence of vegetation in cities and the importance of tree-planting to the health, beauty and summer temperature of New York, with practical suggestions in relation thereto, was presented by Dr. Stephen Smith and Professor D. S. Martin.

May 31.—On rock-crystal, its cutting in Japan, Germany and the United States, with exhibition of crystal spheres and other objects of transparent quartz, including some of the largest pieces in this country, by Mr. George F. Kunz.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, May 19.—Mr. F. W. Putnam showed a collection of implements and ornaments from Central America, and remarked on the evidence they present of an early migration from Asia to America; Dr. C. S. Minot discussed the origin of the mesoderm.